

**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Virginia*

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For Immediate Release  
June 3, 2003

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the sentencing today of Lloyd A. Jones, age 48, of Mechanicsville, Virginia, by the Honorable Robert E. Payne, to 27 months imprisonment and a \$49,000.00 fine.

Jones pleaded guilty to one count of receipt of a bribe on March 4, 2003. He served as the Presidentially appointed State Director of Virginia Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA, RD) from March 1990 through June 2001. Among other things, USDA, RD made loans to providers of rental housing in rural areas to ensure adequate housing availability for low-income individuals and for those age 62 and older. USDA also subsidized the monthly rental payments of qualified low-income rural families who occupied the rental housing. The indictment alleges that almost immediately after taking office, Jones began accepting cash payments and other financial assistance from several developers doing business with USDA, RD and that he accepted more than \$60,000 from these developers. In return, Jones gave these developers favorable treatment at USDA. Specifically, the indictment alleges that on August 3, 1999, Jones received a bribe of \$32,000 from the president of M&R Associates, a development company from Fort Worth, Texas, in return for being influenced in the performance of an official act, that is, allowing M&R Associates to continue to do business with USDA, RD despite the recommendations of USDA, OIG.

Mr. McNulty stated: "This case sends an important message to a community that is a seat of government. Those who steal from the public purse or violate their positions of trust will be caught and punished."

Also announcing the sentence today is Donald W. Thompson, Jr., Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Field Division.

The case was investigated by agents for FBI and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Trono.

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